

Waste Watchers Inc

P.O. BOX 3535
Fremont, California 94539
Alameda

Phone (510) 794-8797
Fax (510) 894-0486
Email rgahern@aol.com

Member Northern California Coalition for Limited Government

January 5, 2002

Ms. Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney-Antitrust Division
Department of Justice

Ms. Hesse:

This letter is to indicate the support of my organization for the settlement of US v. Microsoft. I understand the settlement being proposed by the Department of Justice is waiting for public comment and I would like this letter to be included with those comments. Our organization, WASTE WATCHERS INC. is a group of citizens from Northern California working to ensure our government is NOT wasting taxpayer money. Because of our location and proximity to the Silicon Valley, our membership is very familiar with the technology industry and details surrounding the Microsoft case. It is our firm belief that the United States government has spent far too much time and money on the case against Microsoft. It is estimated that the states and federal government have spent at least \$37 million on this issue. With a settlement on the table, the country finally has an opportunity to end this extremely costly endeavor. \$37 million is really only a fraction of what US v. Microsoft has cost the American people. Since the day the case began, we have seen the technology industry plummet. The domino effect of the tech crash went from the Nasdaq to the New York Stock exchange and almost brought our entire economy to a grinding halt. For our organization, the greatest reason for concern is the budget deficits now being faced by most states. In California, we are going to be billions of dollars short of reaching the budget for the next year. That shortfall, when combined with competing political needs, will inevitably result in tax increases. We already pay among the highest taxes in the country, and the Fiasco of the Davis Administration in our state embolishes the whole mess. It is important also realize that housing prices have not come down and thousands of our neighbors are losing their jobs because of the tech crash.



Tax Action Network Affiliate of Council of Citizens Against Government Waste
1301 Connecticut Ave, N.W. Suite 400 Washington, D.C. 20036

1-800-BE-ANGRY-http://www.cagw.org

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Mx. Renata Hesse

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All of this does not add up to strong financial conditions. We are not arguing that settling the Microsoft case will end our economic woes and fill California's coffers up again. That will require a fiscally "sane" administration and legislature in Sacramento. But we are saying that it is time for our country to begin taking steps which help the economy grow and expand. Settling the Microsoft case is one step closer to the sort of economic environment we need to create. And may we also add that we think it about time, yes long overdue, for the Government to stop their crusade of "punishing" the successful and damning innovation and hard work. It is organizations such as Microsoft that provide the jobs and the work places for earning power of we - the citizens, who ultimately pay the taxes that fund this government in the final analysis.

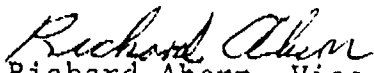
The settlement proposed in US v. Microsoft is good. More importantly, it is time to stop wasting millions of dollars to continue this case. Our economy is no longer strong enough to withstand litigation over innovation.

The facade being used by many politicians to paint organizations such as Microsoft as the "bad" guys must come to an end. As said before, these "bad" guys PROVIDE millions of jobs and millions of pay checks to purchase homes, groceries, cars and etc. These things do not come from "government!!! The "government needs to get out of the way and let us get on with the business of providing all the things mentioned above for millions of "citizens"!

Sincerely, , , , ,



Kenneth D. Steadman, President



Richard Ahern, Vice President